IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A therapeutic HCV vaccine composition consisting of a therapeutically effective amount of at least one HCV single or specific oligomeric envelope E1 protein ~~or a part thereof~~; and at least one of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or vehicle, said E1 protein consisting of amino acids 192-326 of the HCV polyprotein.

17. (Currently Amended) A therapeutic HCV vaccine composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a combination of at least two HCV single or specific oligomeric envelope E1 proteins ~~or parts thereof~~ wherein said at least two E1 proteins ~~or parts thereof~~ are derived from different HCV genotypes, subtypes or isolates; and at least one of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or vehicle, said E1 proteins consisting of amino acids 192-326 of the HCV polyprotein.

Claims 18-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according claim 17 wherein said E1 protein ~~or part thereof~~ is produced by a recombinant host.

22. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 21 wherein said recombinant host is a recombinant mammalian cell, a recombinant yeast cell or a recombinant virus.

23. (Currently Amended) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 17 which is therapeutically effective in a mammal infected with a HCV genotype or subtype homologous to the HCV genotype or subtype, or HCV genotypes or subtypes, from which said E1 protein or proteins~~, or parts thereof,~~ are derived.

24. (Currently Amended) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 17 which is therapeutically effective in a mammal infected with a HCV genotype or subtype heterologous the HCV genotype or subtype, or HCV genotypes or subtypes, from which said E1 protein or proteins~~, or parts thereof,~~ are derived.

25. (Currently Amended) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 17 wherein the cysteines of said HCV envelope E1 proteins ~~or parts thereof~~ are blocked.

26. (Currently Amended) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 17 to which said HCV envelope E1 proteins ~~or parts thereof~~ are added as viral-like particles.

27. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing an immune response in a chronic HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claims 16 to 17 to said mammal.

28. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 27 wherein said immune response is a humoral and/or a cellular immune response.
acknowledged

29. (Withdrawn) A method for clearing HCV viral antigens from the liver of an HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claims 16 to 17 to said mammal.

30. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 29 wherein said HCV viral antigens are HCV Core and/or HCV E2 antigens.

31. (Withdrawn) A method for normalizing the levels of liver enzymes in the serum of a HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claims 16 to 17 to said mammal.

32. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 31 wherein said liver enzymes are ALT and/or gammaGT.

33. (Withdrawn) A method for improving the histology of the liver of a HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claims 16 to 17 to said mammal.

34. (Withdrawn) A method for improving liver disease in a HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claims 16 to 17 to said mammal.

35. (Withdrawn) A method for improving liver inflammation in a HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claims 16 to 17 to said mammal.

36. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a mammal infected with HCV comprising administering a therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 16 or 17.

Claim 37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~37~~ 34 wherein said mammal is infected with a HCV of a genotype or subtype homologous to the HCV genotype or subtype, or genotypes or subtypes, from which the E1 proteins ~~or parts thereof~~ comprised in said composition are derived.

39. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~37~~ 36 wherein said mammal is infected with a HCV of a genotype or subtype heterologous to the HCV genotype or subtype, or genotypes or subtypes, from which the E1 proteins ~~or parts thereof~~ comprised in said composition are derived.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 36 wherein said mammal is a human.

41. (Withdrawn) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 23 wherein said mammal is a human.

42. (Withdrawn) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 24 wherein said mammal is a human.

Claim 43. (Canceled)